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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 BAGHDAD 004391

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ, INR/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - October 25, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussions of Amr Musa's visit to Iraq; Ba'ath-inspired violence; and preparation for December elections were the major editorial themes of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on October 25, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

1A. "Musa's Visit to Iraq: Important Results"
(Editorial from Al-Ahram Newspaper, posted on Iraq 4 All News - <http://iraq4all.org/viewnews.php?id=10442>)

"The Arab League Secretary General's visit to Iraq and his discussions with many Iraqi factions were vital, as he produced significant results regarding Iraqi stability and security. This tour contributed to the restoration of confidence between Iraqis and the Arab world after a period during which some Iraqis called for their country to pull out of its Arab surroundings.

"It has also established the basis for an active Arab role in the Iraqi political scene, which should help direct political events and end violence. This visit is not the end of the road, but the beginning of an Arab effort to support Iraqis and leave current conditions behind so they can regain their independence and stability.

"In addition to what was mentioned above, Musa's talks with different Iraqi groups played an important role in achieving just enough agreement to hold an accord conference in Cairo next month. This conference, with sufficient preparation, should push Iraqis of different political, religious, and ethnic backgrounds toward a common political vision for their country's future. It will be based on preserving the unity and sovereignty of Iraq and consolidating the democratic process that guarantees the coexistence of different groups. Coexistence will be based on citizenship rather than ethnic and religious differences and it will ensure equality among all Iraqis, without exception."

1B. "The Same Ba'athist Executioner"
(Editorial by Balqes Hameed Hasan - Elaph - "Consensus" - <http://www.elaph.com/ElaphWeb/ElaphWriter/2005/10/100522.htm> - London-based electronic newspaper published by Othman al-Omeir, former Saudi editor of Asharq Al-Awsat and Al-Majallah)

"Many Arab political analysts and members of the media mock us when we say that Ba'ath party remnants are behind the majority of terrorist attacks in Iraq and that without their support for terrorists the continuous bloodshed and explosions would not be possible. At the same time, these same Arabs accuse us of treason and standing with Americans-only because we want to build our country with a democratic government elected by the people, as in any other civilized nation.

"The situation in Iraq confirms Ba'athist involvement on a daily basis. They issue statements in the name of Izzat [Ibrahim] Al-Duri and others, conduct kidnappings here and there, gamble on civil war, spread chaos, and attempt to topple the new government. And today they request the aid of their old Arab allies, including politicians, and call for intervention in search of reconciliation that will provide them with the opportunity to reassume power and spread terror once again.

"How can anyone believe in the innocence of Ba'athists, given the brutal killings of children, workers, and policemen and the abduction of scientists, intellectuals, and politicians? How can a foreign terrorist settle in Iraq and carry out his

crimes without the assistance of people living in the country? Can such a terrorist cross the border with an RPG launcher or any other heavy weaponry? Where did the weapons of the former Iraqi army disappear to? Who took billions of Iraqi funds from banks? Don't any of these questions qualify as evidence for those who defend and sympathize with Saddam's gangsters?

"Arabs should know that no one can remove the bitterness from the hearts of Iraqis who witnessed death everyday. Iraqis have no struggle amongst themselves; the struggle is between victimized people and criminals. How can Iraqi blood be subject to bargaining?"

1C. "Arrest Al-Dhari and Save Iraq Before It Is Too Late" (Editorial by Hassan Al-Zameli - Sawt Al-Iraq - "The Voice of Iraq" - <http://www.sotaliraq.com/articles-iraq/nieuws.php?id=18041> - Produced by Faili Kurds, not affiliated with any political party)

"This bastard dog and non-human is still crying at the top of his lungs against Iraq and Iraqis. He instigates and encourages terror with the assistance of Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Amr Musa sent a signal to America that security instability is governed by Egyptian intelligence. How come we did not hear any car bombs exploding next to Amr Musa's residence in Iraq, but when his visit ended the wave of car bombs started again? Isn't this a reason to reject the conference that they call 'reconciliation' unless the Arab League condemns all explosions, terrorism, killings and destruction in Iraq?"

"Put Al-Dhari in the prosecution's cage with his disgraced master and you will see the source of the crime. America does not want to arrest Al-Dhari because conspiracy theories about the blood of innocent people will be revealed. America should know that if people's patience runs out, they will drown in their mistakes and, at that point, everything will be out of control."

1D. "How Do Our National Government and Political Forces Prepare for the Coming Elections?"

(Editorial by Dr. Abdul Khalik Hussein - Iraq Al-Ghad - "Iraq of Tomorrow" - <http://www.iraqoftomorrow.org/viewarticle.php?id=index-20050110-28495> - Self-proclaimed independent, national electronic newspaper, promoting the spread of democracy and supporting federalism in a united Iraq)

"Iraq is set to hold parliamentary elections on December 15th, 2005 to elect permanent National Assembly members if the draft constitution is ratified, or a new temporary National Assembly if the draft is rejected. Do officials prepare for these desired elections, which we want to be another step on the path toward democracy and the establishment of a modern state? There is no doubt that elections are an important part of democracy; there is no democracy without elections; however, there can be elections without democracy. In the Ba'ath era there were elections without democracy. Now, in Iraq, there is a project to build a true democratic state; therefore, there are elections to choose municipal councils, local governments and the National Assembly.

"But democracy loses its value if it is not accompanied by a popular perception of its importance to the democratic system. Political awareness must be promoted, or else democracy will be a means to serve political elitists who know how to manipulate people's emotions and feelings. The deposed fascist regime worked to deprive people of any means to learn about democracy. All media outlets were controlled by the ruling party, which sought to mislead people and spread fascist principles and individual worship. This led to paralysis of the mind, dependency, and carelessness and it undermined self-confidence. Ultimately, Ba'ath rule led to human destruction.

"The ad hoc terror and spread of organized crime with which Iraqi people must live is proof that the new era was inherited from the former era. It is time for officials, political leaders, and cultural, social, and media organizations to play their roles in spreading political perceptions. They must educate citizens about their rights, duties, and responsibilities toward their compatriots and nation."

SATTERFIELD